MAY 2 2 2006 EN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Date: May 19, 2006

GARY D. RONDEAU and JOHN H. ZEMEK

KH Docket No. ASC 301

Serial No.

10/823,349

Examiner T. Nguyen

Filed

April 12, 2004

Group Art Unit 2872

For

STAGE ASSEMBLY AND METHOD FOR OPTICAL

MICROSCOPE INCLUDING Z-AXIS STAGE AND PIEZOELECTRIC ACTUATOR FOR RECTILINEAR TRANSLATION OF Z STAGE

Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

Responsive to the final Office action dated December 19, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the claim listing that begins on page 6 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 11 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 12 of this paper.